

First Look

Retirement ceremony

The 65th Air Base Wing will recognize one of the Air Force's finest, Chief Master Sergeant Doug Hodge, 65 ABW command chief, 10 a.m. July 9, at Fiddler's Green.

Golf tournament

A golf tournament honoring Chief Master Sergeant Doug Hodge's retirement takes place 11 a.m., Wednesday at the Terceira Golf Course. The four-person scramble costs 10 euros per person plus green fees. The deadline for signup is today. For more information call Master Sgt. Tony Bickerdike at 2-6535.

STEP promotion

Supreme Allied Commander Europe, NATO General James Jones promoted Angela Schneider to technical sergeant under the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program June 25. TSgt Schneider is the information manager for AFOSI Detachment 516.

New captains

Four Lajes first lieutenants received promotions to captain. They are: 1st Lts. **Lee Hoisington**, 65th Security Forces Squadron, **Jerry Ottinger**, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, **James Renfro**, 65th Operations Support Squadron and **Robert Toney**, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Gate closure

Beira Mar Gate is closed Monday to lay electrical cable. The walking pedestrian gate is open all day.

Tops in Blue

Tops in Blue will perform here at 8:30 a.m. July 10, at the Portuguese hanger. For more information, call Lew Clagg at 2-1334.

Preflight

■ Days since last DUI 152
 ■ DUIs since Jan. 1 one
 ■ Current AEF 9&10
 ■ Current FPCON Alpha
 ■ Combat Nighthawk: Capt. Kevin Parker, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron; 1st Lt. Evelyn Calley, 65th Communications Squadron; Master Sgt. Kurt Bergmark, 65 CS; Tech. Sgt. Vernon Vanderpool, 65 CES

Israeli AF visits



A combined flying squadron from the Israeli Air Force arrived at Lajes Sunday and Monday, on their way to the U.S. for joint training with the Air Force at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, and Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. More photos and story on page 4-5. (Photo by Airman Josie Kemp)

Independence Day

Remember those ensuring our freedom in harm's way

Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong
 Commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS) – For 228 years, Americans have celebrated the signing of our Declaration of Independence. This document, signed by our great country's forefathers, conceived a new nation and put into writing the democratic freedoms and inalienable rights we so cherish today: Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

From the Revolutionary War to Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, Americans have sacrificed their sons and daughters for our coveted virtues of freedom, democracy and equality. These young men and women brought their courage to the

fight, and paid the ultimate price for the liberties we enjoy today.

As we celebrate this 4th of July with traditional picnics and barbecues and holiday trips, let us remember and honor our brothers and sisters in arms who are downrange and in harm's way ensuring our freedoms at home and around the world. In addition, as you enjoy your fellowship with friends and family, reflect on Old Glory and everything she represents.

The true power of the Declaration of Independence comes from its capacity to inspire pride in our hearts. Our belief in the vision it established unites us as Americans and as those in service to our nation.

Thanks for all the great work you do for U.S. Air Forces in Europe, the United States of America and the world.

Website enables “hidden” volunteers

by **Capt. Yvonne Levardi**
Chief of public affairs

A new website for Team Lajes allows volunteers and organizations to register as part of the Hidden Hero program to help match people to volunteer opportunities.

Volunteers can enter their information at the Family Matter Portal Website, at <https://wwwmil.usafe.af.mil/direct/a1/A1P/A1PM/FMP/index.cfm> and someone from the Hidden Hero program will contact them to discuss volunteer opportunities, according to Ms. Else Wingert, program manager.

“The website is user-friendly and easy to navigate,” Ms. Wingert said. “It eases the pro-

cess of communication for volunteers, allowing them to search from their dot-mil computer for new Lajes volunteer opportunities.”

According to Ms. Wingert, the goal of the website is to create an all-Web based system for volunteer registration, reporting hours, promoting volunteer positions and recruiting new volunteers.

“We’re starting off easy, with a simple form for individuals to fill out to receive more information about volunteering and to search for current volunteer opportunities,” Ms. Wingert said. “The Hidden Heroes program point of contact then matches volunteers with opportunities.”

Organizations on base can also input in-

formation about positions they have open for a volunteer to fill, Ms. Wingert said.

“For instance, if a squadron needs clerical assistance, they can register their information and someone from the Hidden Hero program will contact them and try to match their need with a registered volunteer,” she said.

Lajes currently has 521 registered volunteers. The website came online Thursday and is only available from dot-mil accounts.

“We anticipate dot-com domains will be able to access it sometime between now and October,” Ms. Wingert said.

For more information, call Else Wingert at 2-6307.

Good cookin’



Master Sgt. Ed Balfour, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, serves dinner to Airman 1st Class James Henly, 729th Air Mobility Squadron, during the Single and Unaccompanied Members dinner at the Chapel, June 24. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle Michaud)

Focus Notes

Combat Proud

The following is a list of base and squadron Combat Proud points of contact:

Maj. Mike Nelson, primary base POC; **1st Lt. Darin North**, alternate base POC; **Capt. Ed Liberman**, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron; **Mr. Patrick Riordan**; **Mr. David Parker**; **Mr. Ramiro Barbosa**; **Mr. John Correia**; **Mr. Raul Ferreira**; **Mr. Honorato Lourenco**, AAFES; **Mr. Roger Wright**, commissary; **Mrs. Monica Chandler-Potts**, DODDS; **Tech. Sgt. Richard King**, 65th Communications Squadron; **SSgt. Michael Luetkeman**, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron; **Master Sgt. Tony Pinkney**, 65th Mission Support Squadron; **Tech. Sgt. Mary Accomando**, 65th Contracting Squadron; **Master Sgt. Donny Eubanks**, 65th Services Squadron; **Senior Master Sgt. Ray Johnson**, 65th Security Forces Squadron; **Tech. Sgt. Scott Rios**, 65th Comptroller Flight; **Tech. Sgt. Edward Stobierski** and **Master Sgt. Bryan Turner**, wing agencies; **Tech. Sgt. Bradley Tafel**, 65th Operations Support Squadron; **Tech. Sgt. Robin Brooks**, 65th Medical Support Squadron; **Staff Sgt. Jamie Kennedy** and **Staff Sgt. Ramon Moss**, 729th Air Mobility Squadron.



Storytime

Lori Urfer, library technician, reads stories to children during the “Go for the Gold” Extreme Summer reading program at the base library Thursday. The reading program is for children ages 4-12 and goes through July 29. (Photo by Guido Melo)

Celebration of American Freedom

Lajes families are invited to attend events beginning at 5 p.m. Sunday at the 65th Security Forces soccer fields. A Shuttle will run back and forth from the commissary to the site from 4:45 until closing. Music, games and food will be available.

4:45 p.m.-close	Shuttle bus starts runs from commissary parking lot to event site. Bus runs throughout the evening until closing
5-7 p.m.	AFN live broadcast from event site
5-7 p.m.	DJ will play a variety of music
5 p.m.-dusk	Variety of food booths open: hotdogs, hamburgers, ribs, drinks, funnel cakes, cotton candy and more
5 p.m.-dusk	Variety of game booths open: bouncy castle, home run derby, speed ball and more
5 p.m.-dusk	Variety of novelty booths open: glow-in-the-dark products, face painting, tattoos, patriotic items, and more
5 p.m.-dusk	Fire truck display
6 p.m.	Potato sack race sponsored by the youth center
6-6:30 p.m.	McGruff "The Crime Dog"
6:30 p.m.	Three-legged race sponsored by the youth center
7-7:45 p.m.	Armed Forces Entertainment group "Taylor Made Jazz" performs
7:30 p.m.	Water balloon toss sponsored by the youth center
7:45-8:45	DJ will play a variety of music during band's intermission
8-8:30 p.m.	McGruff "The Crime Dog"
TBD	Police working dogs
8:25-9:30 p.m.	AFE group "Taylor Made Jazz" performs
9:30-10:45 p.m.	DJ will play variety of music
10:45 p.m.	Fireworks display
11 p.m.	End of event

Taking care of what we have

By Tech. Sgt. Renee Kirkland
NCOIC, public affairs

A U.S. Air Forces in Europe competition evaluating base pride in its facilities' appearance takes place July 21.

The prize of the command-wide Combat Proud initiative is \$100K.

"Base units are developing plans and taking action to spruce up the areas around their units," said Maj. Michael Nelson, Combat Proud project manager. "There are many areas around the base not owned by any particular unit, and these locations provide the opportunity for private organizations or base units to step up and contribute to the base-wide beautification effort."

Some locations in need of assistance

include: concrete block structure behind Bldg. T-130 and below Bldg. T-122; walls along Rua Acores — below Bldg. T-122 and bowling center parking lot, below Bldg. T-400 and above clinic, below hobby shop; wall at top of hill along perimeter fence near Santa Rita gate; stairs across from shopette; any housing entrance; wall between chapel and fitness center parking lots and yellow curbing along the main road by elementary school.

"Most of the projects listed include painting or landscaping," said Major Nelson, "but we (the base) are open to other suggested projects."

Everyone on base is invited to take part in the effort.

"Organizations such as the Rising VI, Top 3, Airmen Leadership School, booster clubs and Scouts are encour-

aged to take part as well as units," he said. "We ask that people take before, during and after photographs of their areas so that the wing can showcase what our organizations did during the competition."

Materials for housing area projects are available at the housing self-help store; other project materials are at the base self-help store.

Projects must be approved by the 65th Civil Engineer Squadron prior to start. Organizations requesting landscaping materials should submit their suggestion as soon as possible. The base will make a bulk purchase for plants July 12.

Individuals or organizations having ideas for Combat Proud projects should contact their unit points of contact. See Page 2 for a list of unit representatives.

Israelis prepare for battle with Gunfighters



A combined flying squadron from the Israeli Air Force arrived at Lajes Sunday and Monday, on their way to joint training with the Gunfighters of the 366th Fighter Wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, as a prelude to their participation in Red Flag at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. (Photo by Airman Josie Kemp)

by 1st Lt. Aaron Wiley
Public affairs specialist

A combined flying squadron from the Israeli Air Force relaxed at Lajes Sunday and Monday with burgers and beverages, breaking up a long journey to a two month joint training with the 366th Fighter Wing's Gunfighters at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, before continuing on to Red Flag at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.

Aircrews from four different Israeli squadrons came together under Lt. Col. Eliyhou Passi's command in a single squadron of five F-15 Ds, four F-15 Is, two 707 Tankers and one Cargo 707 for a deployment to the States they call "Aurora."

"We're going to Mountain Home to practice with the 389th, 390th and 391st Fighter Squadrons and then we'll participate in Red Flag at Nellis," said Colonel Passi. "This'll be our third year participating in this joint exercise."

The Israeli squadron will practice at Mountain Home with the 366th Operations Squadron, whose original organi-

zation, the 366th Fighter Group, flew its first combat missions against Nazi pilots.

The 366th Fighter Group was instrumental in defeating Hitler's regime, which ended the Holocaust and led to the establishment of the Israeli state in 1948.

"Israel is a very young country, of which we are very proud. We just celebrated our 56th anniversary," said Brig. Gen. Tamir Safra, a reservist pilot with the squadron who recently retired after 25 years of service in the Israeli Air Force.

"Six million Jews were killed during the Holocaust, so the Israeli country was built for the Jewish people in Europe who were left," he said. "Our military forces cannot allow our people to be in a situation, where someone, some country, some terrorist organization or anyone else will try to exterminate the Jews again."

According to Colonel Passi, who has worked with U.S. forces in Israel, participating in joint exercises like Red Flag has made it much easier to interact with U.S. forces in real world situations.

"Since the Gulf War, both Israel and America understand that there may be opportunities in the future when we need

to fly together or next to each other, so we started practicing together," said Colonel Passi.

General Safra agreed with the squadron commander.

"It's always good to learn from another air force. To train with the U.S. Air Force is a good opportunity for our forces to learn from their F-15 and F-16 pilots and the organization as a whole," he said. "Even the long flight to the States is good training for long range missions and deploying forces to far away targets or fields."

General Safra and Colonel Passi had never been to Lajes before and were surprised by the island's beauty and the reception they received.

"We're very impressed by the hospitality of both the Portuguese and the American staff. They've done an excellent job," General Safra said. "It's always nice to come to a place where you feel that a lot of people, both the Portuguese and U.S. Forces, are very glad to have you. They've made an excellent first impression."



(Above) Capt. Or Russo, here with the Israeli Air Force, receives a hamburger from 1st Lt. Jerry Ottinger, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, during a burger burn Monday. (Right) After arriving here Monday, a pilot from the Israeli Air Force steps out of his F-15 after a six-hour flight from Germany. (Below) Members from the Israeli Air Force stopped here for crew rest Monday. There were five F-15 Ds, four F-15 Is, two 707 Tankers and one Cargo 707 from the Israeli Air Force on their way to joint training with the Air Force at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, and Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Michelle Michaud)





Let Freedom Ring

by Col. Barbara Jacobi
65th Air Base Wing
commander

On July 4th 1776, 13 colonies unanimously declared their independence from England based on their belief in certain unalienable rights endowed to them by their Creator. We celebrate this Declaration of Independence each year as the birthday of the United States of America, the land of the free and home of the brave.

Since then the Star Spangled Banner has declared that freedom to all

the world. Beginning with the U.S. involvement in World War I, Old Glory, our flag has carried that message to nations across the globe as our military helped others defend liberty and justice for all.

As United States service men and women we have volunteered to defend the constitution of the United States against all enemies. It is that willingness to serve, or "American Spirit", and those who passed it on to us that I celebrate this Fourth of July. As American citizens serving your country you can be proud,

on our nation's day of independence, that your daily efforts keep freedom ringing.

Throughout my years of service I have witnessed the sacrifices you and others have made ensuring the "American dream" of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness remains a reality.

As an important part of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Lajes continues to excel in its role of enabling expeditionary forces to fight and win the current war on terrorism. For that I thank and congratulate you.

I look forward to the celebration that many of you have worked hard to make happen and encourage everyone to come out and enjoy the festivities this weekend.

While you're enjoying yourself this holiday weekend, take time to reflect on those who have paid for your freedom and I challenge you to convert your gratitude into a rededication to our charge to protect and defend the United States of America.

Have an excellent and safe Fourth of July weekend!

Professional development It has everything to do with your job

by Senior Master Sgt. David Montano
65th Medical Group

People often ask me, "What's the big deal with professional development? What does any of this have to do with my job? Don't we have better things to do?"

You've probably either heard or asked these questions whenever the subject of professional development came up. I'd like to put the concept of professional development in an entirely new light and hopefully give you another way of looking at these great opportunities.

Do you brush your teeth to impress your dentist? Of course you don't. Your motivation to brush every day probably has something to do with you being a responsible person and very little to do with your annual dental exam. The same question can be asked about bathing, but surely our motivation towards cleanliness has little to do with our annual physicals; that's a silly assumption.

We brush our teeth and bathe because it's what society expects. It's a normal thing we do, and it's a matter

of taking care of ourselves.

What kind of a person would only brush or bathe shortly before their annual dental or physical exam?

Let's revisit the question of professional development. Professional development really deals with the heart of everything we do. Take a moment and think about why some folks are concerned with professional development solely as a means to do well on a promotions test.

Sounds a lot like choosing to brush only before an annual dental exam.

But like brushing or bathing regularly, professional development is an absolutely essential part of every profession.

Can you think of any profession that doesn't deal with time management, planning, conflict resolution, customer relations, mentoring techniques, continuity, counseling, quality control or other like areas?

Professional development is not just a "military thing," it's an essential part of any successful profession. We are so very lucky in the military; we're highly encouraged throughout every grade to seek out professional development.

Why then is professional development given such a bad rap? Why do some people get it and others don't? Why do some people believe professional development is solely a means to pass a promotions test and make that next grade?

Let me put it this way: Professional development prepares and reinforces our collective ability to be successful every day. People who've figured this out are on the fast track to success, they're actively searching for opportunities for team success and their teams really do shine. And that's what it's about. Not just making the next grade, but developing, growing and actively doing all we can, with what we've got for the right reasons.

So, what's the big deal with professional development? What does any of this have to do with my job? Don't we have better things to do? All in all, it's about individually growing within your profession to strengthen your team's ability to perform within your profession. It's a big deal, it has everything to do with your job, and it's a great investment in our collective success.

U.S. occupation officially ends

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Sovereignty in Iraq passed from the Coalition Provisional Authority to the interim Iraqi government June 28, two days ahead of schedule.

In a 10-minute ceremony inside the heavily fortified "Green Zone" where coalition headquarters is located in Baghdad, CPA administrator L. Paul Bremer III read a letter he had signed which dissolved the authority.

"As recognized in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1546, the Coalition Provisional Authority will cease to exist on June 28, at which point the occupation will end and the Iraqi interim government will assume and exercise full sovereign authority on behalf of the Iraqi people. I welcome Iraq's steps to take its rightful place of equality and honor among the free nations of the world," Mr. Bremer read.

Mr. Bremer boarded a helicopter shortly after the ceremony and later left the country aboard an Air Force C-130 Hercules.

"This is a historic and happy day for us in Iraq," said Iraqi President Ghazi al-Yawar after receiving the transfer documents. "It is a day that all Iraqis have been looking forward to. This is the day that we take our country back into the international community. We want a free and democratic Iraq, and we want a country that is a source of peace and stability for the whole world."

Iraqi prime minister Iyad Allawi, who reportedly sought the early transfer, expressed confidence in his government's ability to stabilize the violence-wracked country.

"This is a historical day," he said. "We feel we are capable of controlling the security situation."

A poll cited in a Defense Department document called "Five Steps to Sovereignty" said 68 percent of Iraqis have confidence in the interim Iraqi government, and 79 percent think the interim government will make things better for Iraq. The new government has an 80-percent approval rating among Iraqis, 73 percent of whom approve of Mr. Allawi, and 84 percent of whom approve of President Yawar.

The document said the interim government will operate under the rules defined in Iraq's Transitional Administrative Law, which it called "the most liberal basic governance document in the Arab world."

At a farewell meeting June 27 with the city, regional and provincial councils in Baghdad, Mr. Bremer expressed confidence in the new government's ability to take over Iraq's affairs.

"When I arrived in Baghdad in May last year, the city was still on fire from the looters," he said. "There was not a single policeman on duty in the entire city. Not in Baghdad, not in Basra, not anywhere in the country. We were producing 300 megawatts of electricity in the entire country. A lot has gotten better."

Iraq now has 100,000 police officers on duty across the country, Mr. Bremer said.

"There are not enough yet in Baghdad," he said. "Schools and clinics and hospitals have been reopened, though much has to be done to improve health care in Baghdad and in the country."

Mr. Bremer expressed optimism to the council members for Iraq's future.

"I am very confident that Iraq in fact will get through this process of political development and will wind up as a beacon for countries in the region as Iraq has so often been in its very long 5,000-year history," he said. "The reason I'm confident is because of people like you, people all over the country who are willing to take up the job and the responsibility for Iraq, because the most important thing that happens when sovereignty returns to the Iraqi government is responsibility returns to the Iraqi people."

He assured the Iraqi leaders that they will not have to go it alone.

"We will still be here to help you," Mr. Bremer said. "The multinational forces will still be here to help with security until the Iraqi forces are able on their own to deal with security. The American government will be here in the form of a very large American Embassy, which will help work with Iraqis to oversee the reconstruction projects which are now beginning already to make an impact on the Iraqi economy."

The United States will spend almost \$19 billion in Iraq throughout the next 15 to 18 months, Mr. Bremer said, much of it on rebuilding of old infrastructure like electricity, water and sewage systems.

Iraqi delegation applauds U.S. military efforts

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq (AFP) —

Hoshiyar Zebari, Iraqi minister of foreign affairs, and other members of the Iraqi governing council, including Iraqi defense minister Hazim al-Shaalan, visited here June 27 on their way to Istanbul, Turkey, to the NATO summit. While here, Mr. Zebari thanked the United States for its assistance in helping form a new Iraqi government.

"Your mission was worth it," Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs Hoshiyar Zebari said of the U.S. military's effort in Iraq. "We're very proud of your sacrifices and deeply appreciate what you have done."

"Today, as we flew here we saw satellite dishes mounted on people's rooftops," said Mr. Zebari, an Iraqi-Kurd who fought in numerous rebellions against the former regime. "One and a half years ago, people would have gotten sentenced to death for having something like that. This is a new era for (Iraqis)."

He said that since Operation Iraqi Freedom started, Iraqis have experienced great leaps in personal freedoms including freedom of the press and religion, unrestricted

Internet access and other privileges of a democratic society.

Mr. Zebari also said many Iraqis have seen a significant rise in their income.

"Another great change has been the rise in salaries for civil servants, teachers and other government jobs," he said. "Some salaries have gone up 100 times higher in some sectors."

Mr. Zebari said that the end result of pay raises has been the steady improvement in the quality of life for Iraqis.

"People are out buying all kinds of new gadgets," he said. "Before (Operation Iraqi Freedom) this would have been impossible. Most people never dreamed of this kind of freedom before."

But freedom has not come free. Mr. Zebari said the challenges both American and Iraqi security forces are facing is the other side effect of having more freedoms.

"Every era of change has its complications," he said. "But I believe it's just a matter of time before the security situation improves."

Mr. al-Shaalan planned to address some security concerns while attending the NATO summit.

He said the Iraqi military is still in the early stage of development and needs more equipment, training and facilities.

The defense minister also urged U.S. servicemembers to not let negative media reports or poll results dissolve their resolve for accomplishing the mission.

"The media can be unfair at times," he said. "We think (Operation Iraqi Freedom) was the right decision. History will show that your actions were right."

TSP toll-free service begins

WASHINGTON — A toll-free telephone service for Thrift Savings Plan participants and beneficiaries begins July 1.

Callers will be able to receive TSP account or transaction information via the service daily around the clock.

They will also be able to speak to a participant service representative at one of two call centers 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern time Monday through Friday.

The retirement savings plan is for federal employees and similar to the 401(k) plans offered by many private employers.

As of May 31, TSP assets totaled more than \$135 billion, and retirement savings accounts were being maintained for nearly 3.3 million participants.

Participants include federal civilian employees in all branches of Government, employees of the U.S. Postal Service, and members of the uniformed services.

For calls from the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, the primary toll-free number will be (877) 968-3778 and the TDD number for the hearing impaired will be (877) 847-4385.

The current number (504) 255-8777 can be used for all other international calls.

The European Union, previously known as the European Community or European Economic Community, is now a union of 25 independent states founded to enhance political, economical and social cooperation among the states.

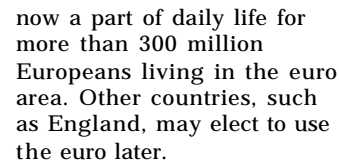
The new states include: Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Lithuania, Malta, Slovakia, Slovenia and Cyprus (Greek side).

This new economic power
of more than 450 million

Initially, the EU consisted of just six countries: Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Denmark, Ireland and the United

In the beginning, much of the cooperation between EU countries was about trade and the economy, but now the EU also deals with many other areas such as freedom, security, justice, environmental protection, etc.

Euro banknotes and coins have been in circulation since Jan. 1, 2002, and are



Miss Snead is the daughter of Tech. Sgt. James and Kelly Wilson, 65th Logistic Readiness Squadron.

The *Crossroads* staff encourages its readers to call or e-mail with ideas or corrections. Call 2-3347 to speak to a *Crossroads* staff member or e-mail us at news@lajes.af.mil.

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Traveling with TRICARE Prime

by 65th Medical Group

Many Lajes military families take extended vacations and its important, when traveling stateside or overseas for extended periods, they know their healthcare options.

According to Master Sgt. Mark Gamma, NCO in charge, business operations and beneficiary support flight, the rules on how to seek medical attention depend on whether the person is an active-duty or a family member, and on the duration of the vacation.

"All active-duty members must have care preauthorized before seeking civilian medical care, except for emergencies, loss of life, limb, or eyesight," he said. "It doesn't matter how long the vacation lasts."

60 days plus

When going on vacation for more than 60 days, active-duty family members should contact the Lajes TRICARE Service Center to request transfer of Prime enrollment to the region in which they will be staying.

"Once at the destination, members should check in with the gaining TSC to be sure transfer is complete," he said. "An enrollment packet containing claims and Primary Care Manager information will be sent to you."

"Upon their return to Lajes, mem-

bers must contact the Lajes TSC to transfer back their enrollment."

Less than 60 days

In case of an overseas emergency, families should go to the nearest emergency room and then contact their servicing TSC. Preauthorization is required for all non-emergency care received overseas. Point of service rates will be applied to all claims without authorization.

For an emergency in the continental U.S., report to the nearest emergency room. Have all claims and bills sent to the claims processor address listed below.

TRICARE recommends that all non-emergency cases wait until the member/family returns to their servicing military treatment facility or go to the nearest MTF. When there's no MTF, contact the nearest TSC in the area to find out if there is a local TRICARE network provider in the vicinity. If there is none, ensure the civilian provider will accept TRICARE payment as payment in full. The provider may file the claim, or the member may have to pay first then file the claim themselves.

Mail all family member claims to:
TRICARE Europe
WPS-Foreign Claims
P.O. Box 8976
Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8976

Childcare fees

Question:

I was wondering why I'm required to pay for child care when the child development center is closed. I understand that while I'm on leave I pay to hold my child's slot. But if no services are offered, I don't understand why I still must pay. At my previous base, also in USAF, I never had to pay for goal days or holidays. It can really add up to a large amount over the year for services not rendered. Why are we paying for something we can't use?

Answer:

Great question. Unlike your previous base, the Lajes CDC is only closed on federal holidays. To provide the optimum flexibility for our parents who must work on family and goal days, we stay open on those days. We do post a sign-up list to help predict how many children will be attending so we can minimally staff the CDC and let some of the staff take leave.

Annual fees are set to cover the non-appropriated cost of operating the program based on the cost for the whole year. Parents must pay for the child care space they reserve even if their child isn't present due to leave, illness, etc.,

because the cost of making that space available and the cost of providing staff for the room doesn't decrease.



The Action Line is your means of addressing a problem, concern or challenge to me about something in the 65th Air Base Wing or U.S. Forces Azores.

However, your chain of command should always be your first option. When that's not the answer, then call the Action Line at 2-4240 and I'll address it quickly and with care. Thank you!

Col. Barbara Jacobi
65th Air Base Wing commander



Everyday Hero

Chief Master Sgt. Doug Hodge

Duty title: 65th Air Base Wing Command Chief

Job description: Taking care of the enlisted members of Lajes

How long have you been in the Air Force? 30 years

How long have you been at Lajes? Two years

What's the best aspect of your job? Being involved with people

Who are your spouse/children/pets? Wife Debra and son Jeffery 22

Best Air Force experience: Not just one experience, they were all good

Hometown: Weathford, Texas

One word to describe you: caring

Hobbies: work, work and work

Favorite food: chicken and anything edible

Favorite color: blue

When I was growing up, I wanted to be: in the Air Force

The 65th Air Base Wing will recognize one of the Air Force's finest, Chief Master Sergeant Doug Hodge, 65th ABW command chief, July 9, at Fidler's Green.

Chief Hodge is retiring after 30 years of distinguished service.

Chief Hodge's dedication, devotion to duty, leadership, and loyalty have been a source of pride to all; and we are proud to have had the opportunity to serve with him.

His example of professionalism has been an inspiration to all. We hope he and his wife Debbie will take fond memories of the United States Air Force with them and we wish them both health and happiness.

Parking will be in front of the 65th Security Forces Squadron soccer fields with shuttles running to and from the location.

Lajes Ridge runners



Kelly McGowan, a member of the Lajes Ridge Runners, runs up Monte Brasil in Angra during one of the runs in May. For more information, call Joe Wilkinson at 2-6878. (Photo by Master Sgt. Patrick McGowan)

Sports Briefs

Fitlinxx

All military members are reminded to log in all of their workout at <http://lajes.fitlinxx.com>

USAFE golf

Registration is ongoing for the 2004 USAFE Golf Championship Aug. 2-5 at RAF Lakenheath, England. The categories are: men's and women's open, senior and master. Cost is \$20 per person or \$50 for non-Air Force annual green fee holders. Registration must be received by July 20. For more information call Staff Sgt. Kevin at 2-5152.

Water aerobics

The base pool offers water aerobics 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Class is free for military and pool pass holders, all others pay the daily fee. Minimum age to participate is 18 years old. For more information, call outdoor recreation at 2-4140.

Sea kayak instructor

Outdoor recreation is looking for certified Sea Kayak instructors. If interested, call 2-4140.

Boat rentals

The Island Breeze boat rental season runs through Sept. 5 at the TTU port. Fifty horsepower Zodiacs are \$20 per hour, gas included. Sea kayaks are \$4 per hour and paddle boats are \$5 per hour. Hours of operation will be noon-5 p.m., Saturdays-Sundays, U.S. holidays and Friday family days. A boating safety certification must be obtained prior to renting the Zodiacs at www.boat-ed.com; use the internet version of the Rhode Island test. For more information, call 2-4140.

Karate

The Lajes youth center has karate classes from 5:30-7:30 p.m., Mondays and 3:30-5:30 p.m., Saturdays for children ages 6-18. For more information call Jolene Wilkinson at 2-1197 or sign up at the youth center.

Hours of Operation

Pool hours: Through Sept. 5
Lap swim: 11 a.m.-1 p.m., open swim: 1-7 p.m., Mon., Wed.-Fri.; noon-7 p.m., Sat.; noon-6 p.m., Sun.

Hillside Lanes: 4-11 p.m., Tue.; 9 a.m.-11 p.m., Wed.-Thu.; 10 a.m.-12:30 a.m., Fri.-Sat.; 4-11 p.m., Sun.

Skating Rink/Skate Park: (On alternating weekends) 7-11 p.m., Fri.-Sat.



Shawn Casey, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, tries for a strike during a bowling tournament June 25. The Crash Firefighters Association sponsored the event. (Photo by Airman Josie Kemp)

AAFES

Flight View BX: 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Mon.-Tue., Thu.-Sat.; 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Wed.; 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun.

Ocean Front BX: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Wed.; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thu.-Sat.; 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun.

Shoppette: 9 a.m.-11 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun.

Beauty shop: 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tue.-Sat.

Dry cleaners: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Mon.; 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tue.-Fri.; 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sat.

Gas station: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun.-Mon. (gas only); 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tue.-Sat.

Lajes services

Child development center: 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

Community activities center: 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Tue.-Sat.; noon-5 p.m., Sun.

Commissary: 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Mon.-Wed., Fri.-Sat.; 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Thu.

Chace Fitness Center: 5 a.m.-

midnight, Mon.-Fri.; 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat.-Sun.

Library: 4-9 p.m., Mon.; 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Tue.-Thu.; 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Fri.; 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat.-Sun.

Outdoor recreation: 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Tue.-Sat.; 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun.

Skills development center: noon-8 p.m., Tue.-Thu.; 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Fri.-Sat.

Thrift Shop: 12:30-4:30 p.m., Mon. and Wed.; 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Fri and 1st Saturday of the month.

Vet Clinic: 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.; noon-6 p.m. 1st and 3rd Wed.; 2-8 p.m., 2nd and 4th Wed.

Youth and teen center: 3-6 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 8 p.m.-midnight, Fri.-Sat.

Meal time

Burger King: 7 a.m.-11 p.m., Mon.-Thu.; 7 a.m.-1 a.m., Fri.-Sat.; 7 a.m.-11 p.m., Sun.

Dining hall: Breakfast 6-8:30 a.m., lunch 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., dinner 4-7 p.m., midnight meal 11 p.m.-1:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri., 11

p.m.-1 a.m., Sat.; Brunch 7 a.m.-1 p.m., supper 4-7 p.m., Sat.-Sun.

Oceanview Island Grill: 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Mon.-Sun. Lunch specials: Mon., roasted chicken or meatball sandwich; Tue., 16" pizza w/2 toppings; Wed., Fried shrimp; Thu., 16" pizza w/1 topping or taco salad; Fri., Lasagna. Specials come with fries or salad, and a drink. Pizza specials only come with drinks.

Top of the Rock club: Lunch 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; brunch 8:30 a.m.-noon, Sat.; dinner 5-9 p.m., Tue.-Sat. Lunch buffets and specials: Mon., Southern buffet; Tue., Mexican buffet; Wed., Italian buffet, family dinner buffet; Thu., Oriental buffet, 2-4-1 steak night; Fri., seafood buffet, Prime & Wine dinner; Huff & Fin dinnerspecial.

Chapel services

Adoration and rosary: 3 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 5:40 p.m., Sun.

Mass: 5 p.m., Sun.-Fri.; 10 a.m., Sat.

Meditation and prayer: 6:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.

Monday

Women's bible study, 7 p.m.

Tuesday

Catholic Women of the Chapel, 7 p.m., 3rd Tuesday

Wednesday

Protestant Men of the Chapel lunch/study, noon; PWOC lunch/study, noon; Catholic Men of the Chapel, 6 p.m., 2nd Wednesday; Traditional choir practice, 6 p.m.; Bell choir practice, 7 p.m.; Catholic choir rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday

Gospel Praise Team practice, 7 p.m.; Men's bible study, 7 p.m.

Friday

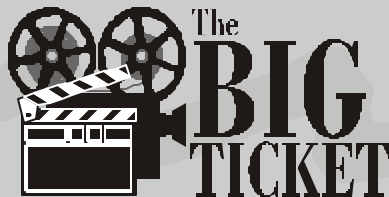
CWOC Mass, 5:30 p.m., 1st Friday; Gospel Choir Practice, 7 p.m.

Saturday

Mass, 10 a.m.

Sunday

Traditional Protestant service, 9 a.m.; Confessions, 9:45 a.m.; Traditional Protestant fellowship, 10 a.m.; Mass, 10:30 a.m.; Gospel service & fellowship, noon; Catholic youth organization, noon; Catholic choir rehearsal, 4 p.m.; Mass, 5 p.m.; Rosary and adoration, 5:40 p.m.; Protestant Youth/Teens of the Chapel, 6:15 p.m.



Tonight: 7 p.m., "Laws of Attraction," rated PG-13 for sexual content and language. Cast includes Pierce Brosnan and Julianne Moore. Two New York divorce attorneys Audrey and Daniel, often oppose each other in court, but end up irresistibly drawn to each other. When they get married, can they avoid the same relationship problems at home that provide them fodder for their court cases at work?

Saturday: 7 p.m., "Man on Fire," rated R for language and strong violence. Cast includes Denzel Washington and Dakota Fanning. A former government operative, Creasy, takes a job in Mexico City as the bodyguard of the 10-year-old daughter of a wealthy family who is threatened by a wave of kidnappings. He becomes close to the child and when she is abducted, he sets out to hunt the bad guys and stops at nothing to save her. 147 minutes.

Tuesday: 7 p.m., "13 Going on 30," rated PG-13 for some sexual content and brief drug references. Cast includes Jennifer Garner and Mark Ruffalo. Jenna makes a wish, if only she could be all grown up, she'd have the life she's always wanted. Miraculously, her wish comes true. The next day, she's 30 years old and not 13 years old anymore. What's more, she is a gorgeous successful woman with a great job and a fabulous apartment. Jenna soon learns that having it all is not enough. 97 minutes.

Wednesday: 7 p.m., "Man on Fire," rated R.

Thursday: 7 p.m., "Laws of Attraction," rated PG-13.

For information about the movie schedule, call the base theater at 2-3302.

AFN Sports on TV

Friday

AFN-Sports

Wimbledon Tennis Tournament: women's semi-finals, noon

Wimbledon Tennis Tournament: men's semi-finals, 4 p.m.

NASCAR Busch Series: Winn-Dixie 250, 11:30 p.m.

Saturday

AFN-Sports

LGPA: U.S. Women's Open-second round, 7 a.m. PRCA Rodeo, noon

Wimbledon Tennis Tournament: women's finals, 1 p.m.

U.S. Olympic trials:

Gymnastics, 6 p.m.

PGA Tour: Cialis Western

Open-third round, 7 p.m.

USA Soccer: Women-

Canada @ USA

AFN-Atlantic

MLB: NY Mets @ NY

Yankees, 5 p.m., Mariners

@ St. Louis Cardinals, 8 p.m.

AFN-Pacific

College Ruby: Air Force @ Penn State, 4 p.m.

NASCAR Nextel Series: Pepsi 400, 11 p.m.

Sunday

AFN-Sports

LGPA: U.S. Women's

Open-third round, 7 a.m.

AMA Motocross: 125CC,

noon

PGA Tour: Cialis Western

Open-final round, 7 p.m.

MLB: Chicago White Sox

@ Chicago Cubs, midnight

AFN-Atlantic

MLB: Boston Red Sox @

San Francisco Giants, 8

p.m.

AFN-Pacific

Wimbledon Tennis Tournament: mens's final, 7 p.m.

College Rugby: Harvard

University @ Air Force, 8 p.m.

EVENTS

The deadline for Crossroads ads is one week out, or the Friday prior to the paper date. Submit announcements weekly in normal text with the what, when, where, who, why and contact info in an e-mail to news@lajes.af.mil. Dates and times should be in civilian format, and include full name of P.O.C.

Bullfights

Saturday: 6 p.m., Largo São João, Fontinhas

Sunday: 6 p.m., Largo São João, Fontinhas; 6:30 p.m., Ribeira Manuel Vieira, Santa Barbara

Monday: 6:30 p.m., Rua Longa, Biscoitos; 6:30 p.m., Boa Hora, Terra Chã

Wednesday: 6:30 p.m., Casa da Ribeira; 6:30 p.m., Largo Igreja São Pedro, Biscoitos

Thursday: 6:30 p.m., Casa da Ribeira

10 July: 6 p.m., Santa Rita (past AFN station); 6:30 p.m., Serra da Ribeirinha

Closures/shifts

MSS closure: All 65th Mission Support Squadron flights will be closed from noon-5 p.m., July 23, for an official function. This includes the military personnel flight, civilian personnel office, family support center, education center and American Red Cross. For emergencies during that time, call 967-916-845.

Testing change: Beginning in December, all master sergeants competing for promotion to senior master sergeant will test on the USAF supervisory examination between Dec. 6-17. The testing cycle will no longer be conducted in January. Testing conducted after Dec. 17 will be considered out-of-cycle.

Gate closure: Beira Mar Gate will be closed all day on Monday to lay electrical cable.

Disconnecting phone service: Portuguese Telecom Communications officials say Lajes personnel who are making a permanent change of station move from Lajes need to give at least 10 days notice prior to leaving to receive a final bill. This is to ensure all international call charges are listed.

Payment and notifications for phone service and ADSL, as well as new service requests, can be made at the P.T. store in the Portuguese Terminal. As of Thursday, the store is open from 8:30 a.m.-4:45 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and closed on Portuguese holidays.

Education Center

OU online: Registration for

the University of Oklahoma's fall online graduate-level courses runs until July 15. Enroll early; courses fill quickly. For more information, call Erika Golart at 2-3171.

Graduate course: Human Emotions, an elective in the OU's Master of Human Relations degree, runs Aug. 10-15. Enroll by Thursday. For more information, call Erika Golart at 2-3171.

ERAU Online: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is holding registration for the August 15 undergraduate distance learning term through July 30. For more information, call Terra Schellig at 2-3375.

Classes

FRAME: Family Readiness Azorean Mission Enhancement is 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Thursday and Friday. Newcomers to Lajes Field can learn about services on base and the Azorean history and culture. On day 2, class members take a trip to explore the restaurants and shopping district in Praia.

Karate: The Lajes youth center has karate classes from 5:30-7:30 p.m., Mondays and 3:30-5:30 p.m., Saturdays for children ages 6-18. For more information call Jolene Wilkinson at 2-1197 or sign up at the youth center.

Chess: Free classes are 10 a.m.-noon, Saturdays at the community activities center beginning June 12. Ages 6 years and up are welcome. To sign up, call the CAC at 2-4135.

Water aerobics: The pool offers free water aerobics classes 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Mon., Wed. and Friday to military and pool pass holders. All others pay the daily fee. Must be 18 to participate. For more information, call 2-3363.

Events

Pet adoptions: The Lajes Veterinary Clinic now has kittens and puppies available for adoption. Adoption includes a waiver of some veterinary fees. Photos are posted in the public folders and at the clinic. For more information, call 2-3134 or 2-4220.

Reading program: Chil-

dren can read books, go online and take tests to earn points and win prizes for the Read by Mail Summer reading program. All general membership and school age program children are registered. Visit www.bookadventure.org to see what prizes are available. For more information, call Ruth Hinojosa at 2-1197.

Bike event: The motorcycle cruiser club "Gravediggers" from Sao Miguel is having a round-the-island group ride and rally July 17-18. Cost is 15 Euros per person and includes a t-shirt, pin and key chain, as well as breakfast, lunch and two dinners. The ride is about "customs," i.e. Milwaukee iron, Harleys and the like. Lajes people can transport their bikes on the Golfinho Azul. To register call Cherie Patti at 2-5228 by Saturday.

Volunteers/jobs

Be a star: Det. 6, AFN needs people of all ages to be in commercials. If interested, call 2-3497, or e-mail Airman 1st Class Sara Feldkamp at sara.feldkamp@lajes.af.mil or Airman 1st Class Robbie Arp at Robbie.arp@lajes.af.mil with name and phone number.

Creative job: AAFES is seeking a highly motivated person with a creative flair for the position of visual merchandiser. Applications are accepted from 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Mon.-Fri. in Bldg. T-800. For more information call Nelia Faria at 2-3634.

Theater positions: AAFES is now accepting applications for a theater supervisor and projectionist. Applications are being accepted 8 a.m.-noon and 2-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri. at building T-800. For more information, call 2-3634.

Red Cross: The American Red Cross is looking for a Health & Safety Chairman. This is a volunteer position requiring about 2-4 hours weekly. Duties include directing and scheduling CPR/First Aid classes, preparing publicity items, and attending monthly volunteer board meetings. For more information and to apply, call the ARC at 2-3516 or visit the office at Bldg. T-112.

NAF jobs: The following

Non-appropriated funds positions are open. Outdoor recreation: lifeguard, cashier/checker, recreation aid - boating, recreation assistance - boating; Youth center: youth recreation aid, school age program assistant; Auto skills development center: skills aid; Central warehouse: supply technician; Child development center: child development program assistant; Atlantic Island Kennels: animal caretaker; Resource management: independent observer; Sun and Sand Hut/community center: recreation aid.

Family readiness: A volunteer assistant is needed to help maintain a program dedicated to families of deployed troops. It requires a six-month minimum commitment. Free childcare is available. For more information, call 2-4138.

Student volunteers: Students, don't have to be bored this summer! They can do something fun or learn a new skill by volunteering. Opportunities are available all over base - work with animals, in an office, on computers or with children. For more information, call the family support center at 2-4138.

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted via e-mail to news@lajes.af.mil. Ads are due by 5 p.m. today.

Will Buy: Interested in buying 2nd hand drum set. Call Claudia Santos at 2-6417.

Must sell: Five point harness car seat \$20. Dresser \$35 Please call Maria or Lupe at 295-549-620 or 2-6729.

For sale: 1986 Subaru DL Wagon, 5-spd, approx 76K miles, great for driving the pets or large boxes around. Runs strong, looks great, available 18 July. \$1500, call Bruce Brown at 295-549-490 or 96-881-3627.

PCS Sale: 2 Dehumidifier almost new-\$125 each, 2 RCA bookshelf stereos w/CD \$20 ea, 3 small 4-shelf bookcases \$10 each, 2 Glider Rockers \$30 ea, exercise Bike \$50, 2 Toddler Girl Bikes \$15 each, tricycle almost new-\$10, Little Tikes' Victorian Kitchen missing accessories-\$20, kids' table w/ 2 chairs \$15 set, large computer desk (\$50), medium computer desk \$35, 27-inch Mitsubishi TV works great-\$30, TV stand \$10, stroller \$20, dressing mirror \$20, Step-2 Kangaroo Climber (\$20), LP gas grill still in box, w/ new tank-\$75. Call to see! Home 259-549-490 or cell 96-881-3627.

Free cat to a good home. Female, spayed, microchipped. Very loveable, along with other pets and children. Loves to go inside and out. Moving to Guam at the end of July and cannot take her with us. Please call Danyel or Tom at 295-549-450.